



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

RECORDS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

In the By-laws of the Society of the Sigma Xi it is provided that:

"On call of the President of Sigma Xi, the Executive Committee shall hold annually at least one stated meeting, independent of other organizations."

In accordance with these stipulations President Julius Stieglitz after preliminary correspondence called the Executive Committee to meet in Chicago on Friday, May 4, 1917. Notice of the meeting was also printed in the March QUARTERLY with the request from President Stieglitz that members and chapters should present matters requiring adjustment or discussion in order that they might be put into form for submission to the annual convention to be held in convocation week.

Pursuant to this summons, the mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order on Friday, May 4, 1917, at 10:15 A. M. in the rooms of the Quadrangle Club at the University of Chicago. President Stieglitz presided; Messrs. Kimball, McClung, and Ward were present; also the treasurer, Mr. Pegram, at the formal request of the committee. Excuses for absence were read from Messrs. Orton and Kester.

MEMBERSHIP

The question of associate membership was taken up first and discussed very fully. At the conclusion of the discussion it was voted that:

The Executive Committee requests approval of the following basis for recommendations for the granting of charters for new chapters:

1. It may recommend the granting of a charter as in the past without any limitation on the chapter to use its own option as to electing undergraduates to full membership or associate membership.
2. It may recommend the granting of a charter, with the limiting provision that the chapter shall elect undergraduates to associate membership only, until such time as the limitation is

removed on recommendation of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of the Convention.

After discussion concerning the extent to which under the conditions outlined in the first resolution adopted by this meeting membership might be granted to institutions of various types, it was voted as follows:

In case provision is made restricting the election of undergraduate members to associate membership, it is further recommended that the policy of the Society shall be to extend the granting of new chapters to all institutions of at least collegiate grade in which there is a scientific faculty of productive research members.

In accordance with previous usage the discussions of the Committee with reference to applications for charters from specific institutions are not printed. There is also omitted from the published record the action taken in individual cases to provide for securing further evidence when necessary in order that a complete and clear report on conditions may accompany the recommendations of the Executive Committee to be submitted to the annual convention. The number of formal petitions presented was large and each of them was scrutinized with great care in the light of the policy of the Society. The views formulated by various conventions and embodied in the appendices to the Constitution were taken as the basis for the guidance of the Committee and all petitions were considered both for unqualified recommendation and for approval subject to the limitation already proposed by the Executive Committee that undergraduates be admitted to associate membership only.

The Executive Committee called attention to the statement of policy found on page 73 of the September, 1916, number of the *QUARTERLY*. It was the opinion of President Stieglitz and others who had attended the convention that this matter was presented and was formally approved, but it seems not to have been recorded in the minutes. For the purposes of action the Executive Committee looks upon this general recommendation as expressing the opinion of the Society, even though a formal record of its approval is not found in the printed document. It will be officially presented to the coming convention as a correction to the printed minutes.

Inquiries concerning the possibility of securing charters were presented from various sources, including five institutions of very

RECORDS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 83

diverse types. These were not accompanied by formal petitions in all cases, but each was discussed tho no definite action was taken.

The attention of the Executive Committee was called to the existence of an alumni club in Duluth which had chosen for itself the name of The Society of Sigma Xi of Duluth, Minnesota. The record of this organization was examined with great interest and at the close of the discussion the Executive Committee passed the following vote:

It is the sense of the Executive Committee that the alumni of Sigma Xi Society are entitled and should be encouraged to organize Sigma Xi alumni clubs in any locality without special vote of the national Society, but that such clubs are not authorized to elect members, honorary or otherwise, or in any way to extend the rights and privileges of the Society or to use its name or modify its policy without definite action of the Convention.

It was further voted that the formation of such clubs should be formally encouraged and that any clubs organized should be requested to report to the general Society through the secretary the details of their organization, to make and send a yearly record of their work for incorporation into the history of the general Society, and to use in all cases as a name the following form:

"Sigma Xi Alumni Club of _____."

It was the sense of the Committee that this action should be informally communicated to the Duluth Club.

With reference to associate membership, the attention of the Committee was directed to the fact that the conditions as set forth in the *QUARTERLY* for March, 1917, page 23, do not work out well in practice. The rule reads at present:

Sec. 7. When a chapter elects to have associate members, the following and no other shall be eligible to associate membership in that chapter:

a. Any graduate student who has shown marked excellence in two or more departments of pure or applied science.

b. Any undergraduate student who has completed the required work of the first three years and who has shown marked excellence in two or more departments of pure or applied science.

The stipulations as they now stand exclude the consideration of concentrated work for the Master's degree, which may be really of higher type than much of that which would be entitled to consideration under the present reading of the rule. Furthermore, the practices of different institutions with reference to the precise limits of departments vary very greatly, and fields of work which are rated as separate departments in many institutions are actually included as subordinate parts of a single department in other institutions.

Accordingly, it was voted to recommend that the first clause (a) which concerns graduate students read "one or more departments."

Attention was called to the fact that the last convention had failed to approve of any insignia for associate members so that at present a person elected to associate membership would not be entitled to wear any Sigma Xi badge whatever. It was felt that this subject was not thoroly discussed at the last convention and certainly was not at present understood by the different chapters. Furthermore it seemed as if the action taken involved rather serious consequences if carried out in the form in which it was adopted. Therefore the Executive Committee favored its resubmission to the convention with a view to procuring permission for the associate members to wear some appropriate badge or token. It was recommended that the following amendment to the Constitution be offered for consideration by chapters and ultimately by the convention the coming winter:

The badge or symbol to be worn by associate members of the Society shall be a pin having the Greek letters Sigma and Xi in white on an electric blue ground. On the reverse shall be the associate member's name, the name of the institution, and the date of election.

A subcommittee of three, consisting of Messrs. Richtmyer, McClung, and Pegram, was appointed to prepare and submit a design to report to the convention for consideration in case the recommendation providing for a badge was favorably acted upon.

The secretary was instructed to reprint the membership certificate as before and to have a certificate for associate members prepared in the same general form as that now used for active members, with the change in the words indicated.

QUARTERLY

President Stieglitz read a series of communications concerning the *QUARTERLY* which had been received from various chapters, and indicated that the consensus of opinion was generally favorable to the retention of the publication as a means of communication between chapters. Letters were read from the various chapters indicating opinions somewhat as follows:

1. California.
2. Washington, D. C., favored the continuation of the publication.
3. Case expressed the view that its discontinuance would be a distinct loss to the Society.
4. Wisconsin presented grounds for opposing the publication.
5. Nebraska felt that some changes in policy were desirable.
6. Syracuse was favorable to the retention of the publication.
7. Brown expressed its approval of continuing to publish such a journal very decidedly.
8. Illinois favored the continuance of the publication but suggested some modifications.
9. Kansas favored the discontinuance of the *QUARTERLY*.
10. Colorado commended the *QUARTERLY* and expressed its hope that it would be continued.
11. Washington University favored its continuance with some changes in form.
12. Missouri voiced its approval.
13. Union wrote commending the present policy.
14. Columbia was reported verbally as being somewhat opposed to the present plan.
15. Cornell was reported verbally as in favor of continuing the publication of a journal in some form and the results of an every-member canvass in that organization were detailed carefully. From these reports it was clear that while the situation was somewhat complex, yet the older and better informed members were clearly in favor of the continuance of the *QUARTERLY* and the building up of a national spirit through it.

The secretary reported at length on the situation, as follows: According to the treasurer's account the expenses of the Society for one year might be roughly classified as follows:

QUARTERLY, 4 issues:

Printing	\$375.16
Paper	170.82
Index, vol. III	6.65
Postage	5.38
Mailing list	25.36
Notices of addresses	1.50
Incidentals (express, etc.) ¹	1.32

TOTAL FOR QUARTERLY	\$586.19
Clerical assistance	318.10
Card index of membership	210.63
Office Expense:	
Sale of certificates	3.98
Sale of Quarter Century Record and History	1.71
Stamped envelopes	21.12

TOTAL CHARGEABLE TO SECRETARY'S OFFICE \$1,141.73

TOTAL EXPENSES OF SOCIETY \$1,423.27

An examination of the above figures shows that, roughly speaking, a little over fifty per cent of the expenses of the Secretary's office went into the QUARTERLY. The amount spent on the journal is a little over forty per cent of the total expenses of the Society. The edition of the QUARTERLY approximates three thousand copies, so that the actual expense to the Society is about twenty cents per member for this item.

The part time services of a trained clerk could not be dispensed with were the QUARTERLY discontinued. Much more correspondence, in fact, would be required on subjects that are now covered by notices in that journal. The following analysis shows roughly the types of work done in the secretary's office for one year, exclusive of that required in the managing of the QUARTERLY:

1. Card index of membership.
2. Correspondence with officers of the general Society and of the various chapters with regard to petitions for new chapters, dates of conventions and committee meetings, questions of policy and finance, etc.
3. The sale of blank certificates of membership is a feature of the work which is, of course, heaviest at the seasons of the year when elections are made. Correspondence on this item is relatively small. Much time is necessarily spent in stamping the certificates with the seal of the Society, packing for shipment, keeping account of prepaid express charges, etc.

RECORDS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 87

4. The sale of the Quarter Century Record and History is only occasional now: it involves the shipment of the volumes and the financial accounting which results.

5. The remaining correspondence is too varied for classification. It includes inquiries from members and outsiders regarding organization, policy, qualifications for membership, names of officers, etc., together with requests for copies of the Constitution, certificates of eligibility to wear the badge of the Society, and similar matters.

All these are duties which would continue irrespective of the QUARTERLY and could not be delegated to a student helper.

The plan for the SIGMA XI QUARTERLY as presented by the secretary showed that the first number for the year was devoted primarily to the convention records; the second number to current history of the Society; the third number to the Executive Committee meeting; and the fourth number to convention proposals. In addition to these major items, chapter reports and news items are introduced regularly into each number and special discussions or records of particular occasions easily find a place in it when offered for publication.

The discussion brought out the fact that all scientific organizations found it necessary to have some means of communication among the membership, that many which had originally issued an annual publication had abandoned it for a quarterly and that the latter had proved on the whole more satisfactory.

At the close of the discussion it was voted to recommend the continuance of the QUARTERLY primarily as a journal of record and means of communication between chapters. It was further voted that the Executive Committee request each chapter to publish a list of elections to membership by that chapter, together with a brief statement of qualifications of each member elected.

The Executive Committee then instructed the secretary to condense the chapter reports with a view to eliminating some of the detail that had been furnished by certain chapter secretaries, and favored the printing of the statistical data concerning each member in smaller type.

The secretary was instructed to investigate the question of inserting advertisements in the QUARTERLY in order to determine

whether the income of the Society might wisely be added to in this direction.

The secretary was instructed to request each chapter secretary to furnish a list of active members with addresses which should be sent early in the fall and constitute the mailing list for the QUARTERLY during the year. It was felt that the list of active members as reported should be the basis for the chapter assessment provided for in the Constitution.

RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY

The secretary was instructed to republish the old minutes of the first two conventions which at present exist only in manuscript form and to incorporate them into certain collections of old documents which have been gathered together with a view to their being deposited in selected libraries in the country.

The question of the general records of the Society discussed in the secretary's annual report (SIGMA XI QUARTERLY, March, 1917, pages 37 to 40) was taken up for further consideration, and it was voted that certain members of the Executive Committee should confer with chapters whose records were not complete with a view to securing if possible a better understanding of the plan and their cooperation with references to the completion of the record. The gentlemen whose names are indicated were requested to confer with the chapters named, as follows:

Columbia, G. B. Pegram.

Iowa, Julius Stieglitz.

Kansas, F. E. Kester.

Michigan, Julius Stieglitz.

Union, Julius Stieglitz.

GENERAL MATTERS

The general discussion of the business organization of the Society showed that difficulties frequently arose through the confusion of the duties of officers, and the Executive Committee voted to recommend to the chapters that they should follow the national Society in abolishing the office of corresponding secretary and entrusting all the duties of the secretary's office to a single officer. This plan seemed on the whole to be simpler and promised to prevent the confusion which has arisen many times within the knowledge of the Executive Committee. It was felt there would be a

distinct advantage to all concerned if the duties were combined in a single officer.

President Stieglitz presented an outline of the plan to provide for certain Sigma Xi fellowships and asked permission to circularize the membership, especially the alumni, for the purpose of securing an endowment for this plan. After careful discussion of the scheme, the Executive Committee voted its approval of the plan and authorized the president to proceed under its authority to bring the matter to the attention of the Society and to carry it through if possible.

The secretary reported that a prominent firm of engravers had submitted for criticism the copy of a plate representing the Sigma Xi seal which they had prepared to fill an order and which was to be published in a college annual. Examination of the copy showed errors in the form of the emblem and also in the text of the Greek motto; these were conspicuous and would have led to adverse criticism upon the Society if they had been published. In the absence of a standard engraving which could be distributed to chapters and utilized for copy when desired such errors are likely to come in as the seal stamped in relief is naturally hard to copy.

It was suggested by the committee that the Society secure and offer to furnish names of engraving firms having certified plates of the official insignia. In line with this suggestion the secretary was requested to ascertain if possible what firms possess such plates.

The organization and work of the National Research Council was presented for the consideration of the Executive Committee, and it was voted to approve strongly the work undertaken by the Council and to assure it of the continued support of Sigma Xi as a whole, as well as to urge upon the chapters in the several universities the furtherance of this work in every way possible. It was further voted to open the columns of the *QUARTERLY* without expense to the National Research Council for the publication of notes or longer communications if desired. The secretary was requested to communicate this fact to the chairman of the Council, Doctor G. E. Hale. This action was taken in accordance with the communication received from the Council and printed in the *QUARTERLY* for March, 1917, page 31. The secretary was instructed to communicate to Doctor Hale also the movement which had been decided upon to establish Sigma Xi fellowships.

Professors Richtmyer and McClung were appointed a committee to investigate the exact form of the Sigma Xi key with especial reference to weight, fineness, and minor details of pattern with a view to determining whether it seemed advisable to consider an official jeweler or the establishment of standards concerning these particulars.

On invitation Doctor S. W. Williston, Ex-President of Sigma XI, attended the evening dinner and discussed with the committee matters of general importance.

The Executive Committee voted its thanks to the Quadrangle Club for the privilege of meeting in the building, and to President Stieglitz for the entertainment offered. The session then adjourned.

HENRY B. WARD, *Secretary*